

**A CATALOGUE, BRIEFLY
DESCRIPTIVE, OF VARIOUS
BOOKS AND ORIGINAL
MANUSCRIPTS OF THE POET
GRAY, 1851**

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A catalogue, briefly descriptive, of various books and original manuscripts of the poet Gray, 1851
by Various

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Notwithstanding the great interest possessed by many of the articles in the following Catalogue, nothing more has been aimed at in its preparation, than to indicate precisely the Editions of the Books, and to describe explicitly the Manuscripts, which it contains; where so much of value and interest abounded for selection, it was difficult to abstain from making copious extracts, but to have done that, would have extended the Catalogue far beyond the limits requisite to be observed, therefore it was deemed more advisable, only to direct attention where really merited or required, by brief descriptions of the MS. Notes, which so much enrich the margins of the Books, and the peculiarities, or variations, which distinguish the Manuscripts: variations, which in addition to indicating priority as to originality over other MSS. extant, render them of great importance in a literary view. Material for a goodly octavo volume of "Marginalia" might be selected from the various Books, so profusely are the MS. Notes scattered over the pages of many of them; the whole of this Catalogue would hardly suffice for a bare transcript of the Notes which are found upon the margins of one, namely, "Clarendon's Rebellion and Life," — The MS. additions by Gray to that work; — in the vol. of "Burnet's History of his own Time," — in "Milles's Catalogue of Honor," — and in the vol. of "Dugdale's Baronage," — will richly recompense the student of English History, for the most careful inspection;

for, where these Notes and Illustrations may, perchance, fail to fully satisfy, yet, as suggestive of further inquiry, and as a clue for its continuance, their utility cannot be over estimated. To secure them a due regard, it must be remembered, that their compiler derived much of his vast information from the most worthy and genuine sources of History, viz. "State Papers and other Original Documents." An examination of the four Books just quoted, will excite wonder, not only by the industry displayed in the mere writing, which for "delicacy and accuracy" is most remarkable, but, by the "extent and variety of research," the "sagacity of conjecture," and the deliberation, which evidently must have preceded the construction of each Note. In addition to the Books instanced above, and to the Autograph Manuscripts, there are four other articles in the Collection, scarcely less deserving of the utmost attention,—the "beautiful monument of his knowledge, his industry, and his taste, the *Linnæus*;"—the "*Milton*,"—the "*Music*,"—and, by no means the least in interest, the "*Naturalist's Journal*."

The Historical, Genealogical, and Biographical Notes, which appear on the margins of so many of the Books, are indisputable testimony of Gray's qualification for the Professorship of Modern History at Cambridge; and, if formed subsequently to his appointment, of the careful assiduity with which he was preparing for the due discharge of its duties.

In the Biography of Gray, which appears in Chalmers's Dictionary (vol. XVI. p. 222) it is stated—
"Although he read much and read critically, and

amassed a vast fund of general learning, his reputation in this respect has hitherto stood upon the evidence of those who know him most intimately." The "evidence" here alluded to, obtained much support, by the contents of the second volume of Mathias's edition of the Poet's Works; strengthened, as it undoubtedly is, by the large amount of inedited material gathered together in this Collection, surely the "evidence" may now be pronounced, conclusive, and it is much to be desired, shall in no way be rendered less so, by the dispersion of the valuable contents of this Catalogue. A mere glance at the Manuscripts and Books, herein described cannot fail to increase the feeling of admiration for Gray, whatever its previous extent; a patient examination of them, will prove how well merited are the eulogia of his friends, editors, or biographers, and will expressively proclaim, that in the following extracts, however much of compliment may be discerned, there is not less of TRUTH.

"There was hardly any part of human learning in which he had not acquired a competent skill, in most of them a consummate mastery." Mason.

"His comprehension was ample, his curiosity extended to all works of art, all the appearances of nature, and all the monuments of past events." Johnson.

"I found him possess of the most exact taste, the soundest judgment, and the most extensive learning." Beattie.

"So various and extensive was his command in every

*region of literature, and the application of his knowledge
so just and accurate.*

Mathias.

C. W.

*The whole Collection is in beautiful condition, all
possible care having been taken to ensure preservation,
by Book-binding, &c. of the best description.*

CATALOGUE
OF
BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS
OF
THE POET GRAY.

Albin (Eleazar). Natural History of English Insects. *With 100 plates; coloured. Morocco, with rich ornamental border on the sides, gilt leaves* 4to. Lond. 1720
Autograph "Tho: Gray, his book," and most of the pages having MS. notes in his neatest manner, with references to Linneus.

Amirault (Moÿse). La Vie de François, Seigneur de la Nonè, dit Bras-de-Fer. *Calf, marbled leaves* 4to. Leyde, 1661
Autograph "Tho. Gray," on the title.

Antoninus (Marcus Aurelius). De Selpao Libri XII. Gr. et Lat. cum Notis Gatakeri. *Calf* 12mo. Glasgow, 1744
Autograph "Tho. Gray," on the title-page.

Antoninus (Pius). Iter Britanniarum, comment. illustratum Thomæ Gale. Opus posthumum revisit, auxit, edidit R. G(ale). Accessit Anonymi Havenatis Britannis Chorographia. *Calf* 4to. Lond. 1709
Autograph "Tho. Gray," on the title.

ANVILLE (Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'). Notice de l'Anclenne Gaule tirée des Monumens Romains. *Calf* 4to. Paris, 1760

With the Modern Names of Places affixed to their ancient designations in the "Table des Matières" in Gray's very neat writing.